

REMARKS

This is a response to the Final Office Action mailed April 27, 2004. Claims 1-8, 10-13, 29-32 and 45-60 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 10 have been found to include allowable subject matter. Claims 1-8, 11-13 and 45 have been rejected by the Examiner. As noted above, Applicant has amended Claim 1, 7, 8, 10, 30 and 45, canceled Claims 9, 14-28 and 33-44 without prejudice, and submitted New Claims 46-60. The amendments and New Claims are fully supported by the written description. Also, no new matter has been introduced into the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to Claims 9 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and has indicated that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent Claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of allowable Claim 9. Accordingly, Claim 1 has been placed in condition for allowance. Claims 2-8, 10-13 and 29-32 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1 and should also be allowable.

Furthermore, Applicant has amended Claim 45 to incorporate the limitations of Claim 9. Claim 45 has therefore been placed in condition for allowance. New Claims 46-60 depend from Claim 45 and should also be found allowable.

Withdrawal of Claims 31 and 32

The Examiner has withdrawn Claims 31-44 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. However, Claims 31 and 32 depend indirectly from generic Claim 1. Because Claim 1 is allowable, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to rejoin Claims 31 and 32.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-8, 10-13, 29-32 and 45-60 are pending in this application. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims have been placed in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the foregoing amendments and pass the case to issue.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (415) 954-0345.

Respectfully submitted,



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